REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with Markings to Show Changes Made"**; additions are shown as <u>underlined</u> and deletions are shown [**bracketed**].

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

2. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in [any preceding claim] Claim 1, wherein the means for delimiting the rehydration area of the trough from the electrode area include walls extending laterally across the width of the trough and an air gap defined between each electrode means and the wall adjacent said electrode means.

3. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in [any preceding claim] Claim 1, wherein two spaced apart parallel walls extend across the trough defining a gap there between.

4. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim [2 or] 3 wherein a part of the gel strip in the rehydration area of the trough adjacent the delimiting wall contacts a conducting/current carrying, electrode bridge.

7. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in [any preceding claim] Claim 1 wherein the electrode area is deeper than the rehydration area.

8. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in [any preceding claim] Claim 1, wherein a laterally extending channel is defined in a floor of the [groove] trough.

9. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in [any preceding claim] Claim 1, wherein the trough does not include embedded electrodes and the electrodes contact the electrode bridge material from above.

10. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 8] Claim 1, wherein the tray includes a dry IPG gel strip and dry electrode bridge material located in place in the trough.

11. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in [any preceding claim] Claim 1 further including pressure applying means which rest on the gel strip where the strip overlaps the electrode bridge material to ensure a good electrical contact between the gel strip and the electrode bridge material.

12. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in [any preceding claim] Claim 1, wherein the tray defines a plurality of substantially parallel troughs.

14. (Amended) A method of rehydrating and performing electrophoresis on a gel strip comprising the steps of:

providing a tray defining at least one trough with a gel strip, located in said trough, the trough defining a centrally located rehydration area and an electrode area disposed on at least one [either] side of the [electrode area] centrally located rehydration area in which an absorbent electrode bridge is provided, the trough including means for delimiting the rehydration area of the trough from the electrode area;

wetting the bridges with an electrically conducting liquid;

adding rehydration liquid, containing a sample to be separated by electrophoresis into the centrally located rehydration area of the trough;

inserting a dry gel strip into the trough if a gel strip is not already present in the trough, the gel strip being longer than the rehydration area so that its ends rest on the electrode bridges;

applying relatively low voltage across the gel strip [the] during a first period in which rehydration of the gel strip occurs;

subsequently applying a relatively higher voltage to perform electrophoresis on the sample

15. (Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein the sample is a mixture of macromolecules selected from the group consisting of protein samples containing DNA, RNA, amino acids or other components which can be separated by electrophoresis [may be used].